

# Electronic Health Records Incentive Program

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## **What is the Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program?**

Beginning in 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will provide money to health care professionals and hospitals, through States, as an incentive for adopting certified Electronic Health Record (EHR) technology. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) established federal funding to promote the “meaningful use” of EHR through incentives. The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, or the “HITECH Act”, defines meaningful use criteria, which providers must meet in order to receive the incentive payment. Eligible Professionals will receive incentives either from Washington State through Medicaid, or from CMS through Medicare. Eligible Hospitals may elect to receive an incentive from both Medicare and Medicaid.

## **Provider types who may request an Incentive payment**

Certain types of Eligible Professionals and Eligible Hospitals will qualify as health care providers who can receive an incentive payment.

- Eligible Professionals for Medicaid are providers who are an MD, DO, DDS, DMS, Certified Nurse-Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, or Physician Assistant (if practicing in a Physician Assistant-led Federally Qualified Health Center or Rural Health Clinic)
- Eligible Hospitals are acute care hospitals, including critical access hospitals, and children’s hospitals.

## **How the Incentive Program will work in Washington**

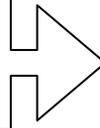
Washington is working on the tasks necessary to implement the incentive program. First, there are a number of preliminary steps to complete, and an implementation plan must be approved by CMS. The State has choices to make regarding how to administer this program, which will be decided by the end of 2010. These decisions will be part of our approved plan. Provider registration will begin in January, 2011. This Health IT project is being managed by MPA’s Division of Systems and Monitoring.

## **“Meaningful Use” of certified EHR Technology**

Providers will have to show the State that their EHR technology is not only certified but also meets other important criteria showing how this technology is being used in their practice. Providers will have to report that they are using EHR technology in specific ways, and use a specific method for reporting this information. The State has some choices in defining how EHR technology is being used, and will share these requirements with providers to ensure they can meet the criteria.

During a provider’s first participation year in the incentive program, the Eligible Professional or Eligible Hospital will have to show that they have successfully completed the steps to either **Adopt, Implement, or Upgrade** certified EHR technology.

- **Adopt** = Acquired and Installed
- **Implement** = Commenced Use of
- **Upgrade** = Expanded or Added Functionality to



## **Certified EHR Technology**

### **How much will providers receive?**

The incentive payment is meant to offset the cost of EHR technology, not replace it.

During an Eligible Professional's initial participation year, the incentive payment is \$21,250. In subsequent years, the incentive payment is \$8,500 per year. A provider can receive no more than 6 payments for a total of \$63,750. The latest that an Eligible Professional can begin participation in the incentive program is during calendar year 2016.

Incentives for Eligible Hospitals will be calculated using specific payment methodology, to calculate a total amount that will be disbursed over a period of time. Eligible Hospitals can participate in the EHR Incentive Program through both Medicaid and Medicare.

### **How will a provider ensure their EHR Technology is "Certified"?**

The Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) has oversight of the certification of EHR Technology. ONC is located within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). ONC is currently authorizing "testing and certification bodies", which will test and certify EHR products. A list of certified products, which will be both complete EHR technology packages, as well as plug-in "modular" offerings, will be maintained by the ONC and updated regularly, beginning Fall 2010. Certified products will have a certification number to ensure providers that their EHR technology is compliant with the standards, implementation specifications, and certification criteria, so that it can be subsequently adopted by eligible professionals and eligible hospitals who seek to achieve meaningful use.

### **Getting ready to register**

Providers must provide specific pieces of information in order to register with Medicaid and begin the process of receiving an incentive payment. This information includes:

<b>Eligible Professionals</b>	<b>Eligible Hospitals</b>
• National Provider Identifier	• National Provider Identifier
• Taxpayer Identification Number (no multiple TINs)	• Taxpayer Identification Number (must match NPI)
• Name, business address and telephone	• Name, business address and telephone
• Must be an enrolled provider with Medicaid	• CMS Certification Number (CCN)
• Must make Medicaid program selection	• Must be an enrolled provider with Medicaid
• Medicaid providers select State where participating	• Medicaid providers select State where participating

### **For more information**

Please visit Washington Medicaid's Health Information Technology website, which contains information about the EHR Incentive Program, Meaningful Use, and links to other valuable resources, at:

<http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/News/HealthIT.htm>